

Security of environmental water

Jurisdiction ^a	Does environmental water have at least the same security as consumptive water?
ACT	The ACT applies a rules-based approach to environmental water. Environmental water is protected through environmental flow regimes under legislation.
NSW	In operating a system, access licences for environmental purposes have the same security as access licences for consumptive purposes. Where licensed environmental water has been purchased from consumptive use, the security of supply remains the same as under the consumptive licence from which it was purchased. Where environmental water takes the form of rules-based water, the security may be higher than or at the same level as consumptive water, depending on the rules. For example, minimum flows have a higher level of security than consumptive water.
NT	The territory has no legislation to allow for entitlement-based environmental water, but rules-based environmental water is provided equal status through water plans. Environmental and cultural assets are provided for as a priority, and totally unregulated water systems mean that there is no requirement or ability to issue entitlements as such.
Qld	Queensland has no legislation to allow for entitlement-based environmental water, but rules-based environmental water has equal status and statutory recognition under the <i>Water Act 2000</i> . While the legislation does not expressly provide for entitlement-based environmental water, it does not prohibit parties holding entitlements for environmental purposes.
SA	The provision of water for the environment is recognised under the <i>Natural Resources Management Act 2004</i> . Environmental water licences have the same level of security as other water licences under the Act.
Tas.	Under Part 6 of the <i>Water Management Act</i> , it is possible to license a specific 'allocation' for the environment—for example, if in the form of a take for a wetland or a release from a dam for environmental purposes. To date, no specific allocations have been registered in this manner. Given that no allocations have been issued, water for the environment is managed using a rules-based approach through water management planning or specific licence conditions.
Vic.	Statutory environmental entitlements have the same legal security as any other bulk entitlement to water.
WA	No equivalent statutory security on environmental water.

- a Under the Commonwealth Restoring the Balance in the Murray–Darling Basin water purchasing program, all entitlements purchased by the Commonwealth retain the same security as the underlying entitlement, and therefore deliver exactly the same security.